Application No. 10/536,814
Reply to Office Action of January 22, 2009,
and the Advisory Action of May 13, 2009

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A media handling system in which candidate video sequences are displayed on a display screen in schematic form for selection by a user, the system comprising:

means for detecting human faces in the candidate video sequences, for detecting a probability of a human face being present in each field or frame of the video sequences, and for weighting at least some of the detected probability levels depending on the size of the detected face, each displayed representation of a candidate video sequence including one or more images representing human faces which have the highest weighted probability levels amongst the respective video sequences;

a display screen configured to display the representations of the candidate video sequences for selection by a user, each representation including one or more images representing human faces derived from the respective video sequences; and

user control means for defining a set of one or more of the video sequences.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein the set of one or more of the video sequences is an ordered edited set forming an output media product.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 2, further comprising:

means for displaying, on the display screen, a further ordered representation of a group of at least a subset of the video sequences forming the output media product, the ordered representation including one or more images representing human faces derived from the respective video sequences in the group.

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Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 3, wherein the ordered representation is a timeline representation, providing an ordered representation of the group of video sequences forming the output media product along a generally rectilinear path on the display screen.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 3, wherein the ordered representation may be scaled so as to vary the proportion of the video sequences forming the output media product which are currently displayed in the ordered representation.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein the detecting means weights the probability levels so that detected faces closer in size to a desired representation size are more likely to be selected to form a displayed representation.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein the detecting means applies the weighting over a subset of the fields or frames of a video sequence.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 9, wherein the detecting means applies the weighting over an initial subset of the fields or frames of a video sequence.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein each candidate video sequence is a sequence over which a face has been detected.

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Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 11, wherein selection of a displayed representation by the user control causes the display of the corresponding video sequence.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein the candidate video sequences are selected from a video sequence captured by a surveillance camera.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein the user control means indicates that faces detected in two or more of the candidate video sequences represent a same person's face.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method of media handling in which candidate video sequences are displayed on a display screen in schematic form for selection by a user, the method comprising:

detecting human faces in the candidate video sequences;

detecting a probability of a human face being present in each field or frame of the video sequences;

weighting at least some of the detected probability levels depending on the size of the detected face, each displayed representation of a candidate video sequence including one or more images representing human faces which have the highest weighted probability levels amongst the respective video sequences;

displaying on a display screen the representations of the candidate video sequences for selection by a user, each representation including one or more images representing human faces derived from the respective video sequences; and

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defining a set of one or more of the video sequences.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A computer readable storage medium encoded with a computer readable program configured to cause an information processing apparatus to execute the method according to claim 15.

Claims 17-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A media handling system in which candidate video sequences are displayed on a display screen in schematic form for selection by a user, the system comprising:

a detector configured to detect human faces in the candidate video sequences, to detect a probability of a human face being present in each field or frame of the video sequences, and to weight at least some of the detected probability levels depending on the size of the detected face, each displayed representation of a candidate video sequence including one or more images representing human faces which have the highest weighted probability levels amongst the respective video sequences;

a display screen configured to display the representations of the candidate video sequences for selection by a user, each representation including one or more images representing human faces derived from the respective video sequences; and

a user control configured to define a set of one or more of the video sequences.

Claim 21 (New): A system according to claim 1, wherein the probability levels are determined by the following formula:

$$h = w_1.L^{A-1} + w_2 L^{A-2} + w_3 L^{A-3} + ... + w_{A-1}L^1 + w_A L^0$$

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wherein A is a number of eigenblocks used to generate a set of eigenblock weights, each eigenblock weight, indicating image attributes, is quantized into a fixed number of levels, L, to produce a set of quantised attributes, $w_i, i = 1..A$.